

SEAMLESS NETWORK OF PROTECTED AREAS PROJECT

Goals, Objectives, Strategies, Outputs, and Products

The Project Objectives are to

1. Consolidate and compare landscape analyses to provide context for park resources and recreational opportunities, so that parks can document the value of their resources at local and regional scales.
2. Provide a forum for developing partnerships or action plans with state, federal and private conservation organizations to protect biodiversity, control invasive species, and develop recreational opportunities.
3. Produce content for interpretive materials and/or proposals.

To accomplish this, we will

- 1) Collect extensive datasets on biodiversity, invasive species, and recreation;
- 2) Conduct multi-agency partnership workshops; and
- 3) Compile and summarize data analyses and workshop findings for park specific and partnership opportunities

Workshops will be conducted midway through the project to provide a forum for protected area managers to understand and discuss the value of their lands from a landscape and regional perspective and to stimulate mutually beneficial partnerships with neighbors and other managers to address resource management issues that cross boundaries. Specifically, workshops will:

Provide a comparison of existing landscape planning analysis projects (including The Nature Conservancy ecoregional plans, Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategies, Important Bird Areas, State land acquisition programs, GAP, and others) to summarize patterns of significant conservation areas;

Provide up-to-date information and maps of species locations, including invasive species, from natural heritage program databases and others.

Provide a forum for reviewing management strategies used by your agencies and others;

Provide a forum to develop partnership opportunities that implement cross-agency management strategies.

As outcomes of the workshops, project staff will further develop the information into products for use in making these partnerships a reality (see below). Immediately after the workshops, participants should have a better understanding of how resource managers in neighboring jurisdictions manage their resources, mitigate threats to those resources, and develop recreational opportunities that are compatible to the preservation those resources. This will allow managers to coordinate management strategies with those neighboring jurisdictions, while maintaining respective agency objectives, into existing and developing landscape scale projects.

Project outputs will be:

For Parks:

Consolidated reports on descriptions of resources, invasive species threats and recreational opportunities, at local and landscape scales;

Recommendations for action;

Content for park-specific or joint agency proposals; and

Content for interpretive materials.

For Partners:

Generally, partners receive the opportunity to look at landscape analyses and to work with other partners in the context of the 3 themes. This will lead to common visions and subsequently to formal partnering and action plans for cost-effective management.

Specifically, the project will provide

- Regional Strategies for project themes;
- Partnership recommendations, including joint management strategies, MOUs, Cooperative Agreements, etc.;
- Opportunity to participate in interpretive outputs; and
- A forum for managers to put their resources in a local and landscape context.